

Message Text

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TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: SWISS AND NORWEGIAN ACCEPTANCES OF HONG KONG
INDOCHINA REFUGEE BOAT CASES

1. ICEM HONG KONG WAS INFORMED ON FEB 28 BY UNHCR KUALA LUMPUR THAT SWITZERLAND WOULD ACCEPT 53 BOAT CASE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG WHO HAD BEEN REJECTED UNDER IPP-77 AND WHO HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO SWITZERLAND LAST AUTUMN. ICEM INFORMED UNHCR THAT 7 HAD ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED BY AND DEPARTED FOR U.S., BUT 46 WERE STILL IN HONG KONG AND WANTED TO GO TO SWITZERLAND.

2. UNHCR REP CARPENTER ARRIVED HONG KONG LAST WEEK TO PROCESS THESE SWISS CASES AND BROUGHT WITH HIM NORWEGIAN OFFER FOR 20 BOAT CASE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED ON NORWEGIAN SHIP ELLEN BAKKE LAST SEPTEMBER AND WHO HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO NORWAY. OF THIS AMOUNT 17 REFUGEES ARE STILL IN HONG KONG. ALL INFORMED CARPENTER THAT THEY WANTED TO GO TO NORWAY.

3. THE 46 PERSONS ACCEPTED BY SWITZERLAND COMPRISE 8 CASES. ALL WERE PROCESSED BY INS AT END OF 1977 UNDER CEP. OF THESE 8 CASES, 5 WERE PENDING RECEIPT OF SPONSORSHIPS AND 3 HAD SPONSORSHIPS, BUT WERE UNDER MEDICAL HOLD (TB). THE 17 PERSONS ACCEPTED
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BY NORWAY COMPRISE 5 CASES. ALL WERE PROCESSED BY INS, 4 UNDER IPP-77 AND 1 UNDER CEP. OF THESE 5 CASES, 3 WERE PENDING RECEIPT SPONSORSHIPS AND 2 HAD SPONSORSHIPS BUT WERE ON MEDICAL HOLD (TB). NONE OF THESE CASES ARE CAT I.

4. IN TELCON WITH CONOFF BEFORE ARRIVAL CARPENTER,

SAMPATKUMAR SAID HE HAD RETURNED FROM UNHCR GENEVA WHERE INTERNATIONALIZATION WAS DISCUSSED AND HE FELT IN VIEW SWISS AND NORWEGIAN ACCEPTANCES THESE CASES, U.S. PROCESSING SHOULD HALT. CARPENTER MADE SOME STATEMENT WHEN HE ARRIVED AND MET WITH US. WE AGREED THAT IN VIEW SWISS AND NORWEGIAN ACCEPTANCES, PROCESSING OF THESE CASES FOR U.S. SHOULD CEASE AND IF NECESSARY REFUGEES SHOULD BE INFORMED THEY ARE NOT RPT NOT ELIGIBLE FOR U.S. IN VIEW THIRD COUNTRY ACCEPTANCES.

5. CASES FOR NORWAY ARE SCHEDULED DEPART HONG KONG ON MARCH 15. HOWEVER, WHEN CARPENTER WENT TO HOTEL MARCH 13 TO ASK REFUGEES SIGN NORWEGIAN APPLICATION FORMS, HE/ICEM WERE UNABLE OBTAIN ANY SIGNATURES. IN MEANTIME, ONE REFUGEE ACCOMPANIED BY SON CAME TO CONGEN TO PLEAD FOR U.S. ACCEPTANCE. HIS CASE WAS PROCESSED UNDER IPP-77, BUT WAS ON MEDICAL HOLD. HE SAID THAT HE LEARNED FROM HIS BROTHER, WHO IS PAROLEE IN U.S., THAT APPROVED WAIVER IS IN MAIL. WE TOLD HIM HE AND FAMILY INELIGIBLE FOR U.S. IN VIEW NORWEGIAN ACCEPTANCE. HE REPLIED HE WILL REFUSE GO TO NORWAY AND WILL WAIT SEE THAT HAPPENS. ANOTHER NORWEGIAN CASE ALSO HAS BACKED OUT. NOW ONE SWISS CASE, PROCESSED UNDER CEP BUT PENDING MEDICAL HOLD, HAS BACKED OUT AND CLAIMS APPROVED WAIVER IS IN MAIL. WE INFORMED BOTH THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CASES THEY ALSO INELIGIBLE FOR U.S. IN VIEW OTHER COUNTRY ACCEPTANCE.

6 BOTH CARPENTER AND CONGE BELIEVE THAT IF WE GIVE WAY ON THESE 3 CASES, MOST IF NOT ALL CASES APPROVED BY NORWAY AND SWITZERLAND WILL TAKE SOME STANCE. ALSO, THE 51, REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED BY BOAT LAST WEEK WILL ALSO BELIEVE IF THEY DIG IN HEELS AND REFUSE ACCEPT THIRD COUNTRY OFFERS, U.S. MIGHT ALSO RELENT AND ACCEPT THEM. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE TO HOLD LINE ON SWISS AND NORWEGIAN CASES IF WE ARE TO HAVE THIRD COUNTRY OFFERS AND ACCEPTANCES FOR HONG KONG/MACAU CASES IN FUTURE.

7. SINCE WE ARE APPLYING INTERNATIONALIZATION STANDARDS TO CASES PROCESS UNDER IPP-77 AND CEP, DEPT MAY WISH COMMENT. CARPENTER PLANS HAVE FINAL MEETING WITH SWISS AND NORWEGIAN CONSULTATES NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AND DEPART HONG KONG. HE STATES THAT BOTH COUNTRIES APPROVED THESE REFUGEES BY NAME AND IF REFUGEES DECLINE, SWISS AND NORWEGIAN ACCEPTANCES CANNOT BE TRANSFERRED AND CAN BE CONSIDERED WITHDRAWN.

SHOESMITH

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